## **Obama Confronts Racial Division**

## Urges nation to break from past

(AP) -- Barack Obama confronted the nation's racial divide head-on Tuesday, tackling both black grievance and white resentment in a bold effort to quiet a campaign uproar over race and his former pastor's incendiary statements.

Obama urged the nation to break "a racial stalemate we've been stuck in for years."

"The anger is real," he said. "It is powerful, and to simply wish it away, to condemn it without understanding its roots, only serves to widen the chasm of misunderstanding that exists between the races."

The speech, delivered in Philadelphia near the building where the Declaration of Independence was adopted, was by far the most prominent airing of racial issues in Obama's 13-month campaign to become the first black president.

He said he recognized his race has been a major issue in a campaign that has taken a "particularly divisive turn." Many people



Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama D-III., speaks about race during a news conference Tuesday in Philadelphia. (AP photo)

have been turning to the Internet to view statements by his longtime pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, who suggested in one sermon that the United States brought the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on itself and in another said blacks should damn America for continuing to mistreat them.

Obama rejected Wright's divisive statements but still embraced the man who

brought him to Christianity, officiated at detours and pitfalls along the way, but we his wedding, baptized his two daughters and inspired the title of his book "The Audacity of Hope.'

"I can no more disown him than I can disown the black community," Obama said. "I can no more disown him than I can my white grandmother—a woman who helped raise me, a woman who sacrificed again and again for me, a woman who loves me as much as she loves anything in this world, but a woman who once confessed her fear of black men who passed by her on the street, and who on more than one occasion has uttered racial or ethnic stereotypes that made me cringe.

Obama's father is a black man from Kenya who left the family when he was 2. He was raised by his white mother and her parents in Hawaii.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, Obama's chief Democratic rival, said she was glad Obama had given the speech.

"Issues of race and gender in America have been complicated throughout our history, and they are complicated in this primary campaign," said Clinton, also campaigning in Philadelphia. "There have been should remember that this is a historic moment for the Democratic Party and for our country. We will be nominating the first African-American or woman for the presidency of the United States, and that is something that all Americans can and should celebrate.

Obama said he came to Wright's church, Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, nearly 20 years ago because he was inspired by the pastor's message of hope and his inspiration to rebuild the black community. He also said black anger persists over injustice in America, and whites shouldn't be surprised that it bursts out in sermons.

"The fact that so many people are surprised to hear that anger in some of Reverend Wright's sermons simply reminds us of the old truism that the most segregated hour in American life occurs on Sunday morning," he said.

Obama said it's not just blacks who are angry - some whites are, too, because they feel blacks are often given an unfair advantage through affirma-

## **Candidate to** Visit Portland on Friday

(AP) -- Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama will make a campaign swing through Oregon this week.

Nick Shapiro, a spokesman for the Obama campaign in Oregon, said the Illinois senator will likely arrive on Friday and leave on Saturday. A Portland appearance on Friday morning is definite, Shapiro said.

Other sources close to the campaign said Obama may also appear in Salem, Corvallis, Eugene and Medford, but there were no other details at press time Tues-

Obama collected about \$200,000 during a Portland fundraiser and rally in September. His rival, New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, hasn't yet been to Oregon during her presidential cam-

Ballots for the mail-in primary go out in six weeks. The results are tallied on

## **Police Issues Draw Fire in Debate**

continued A from Front

ring to Adams' comment he said, rent theme, he said individuals schools, he said. should be trained to defend their to do it.

presented their own, sometimes vision. conflicting positions. At several rected criticism at Adams, who as Portland as a member of the com-sponsibility for problem solving city commissioner is the only elected munity. This is an incredible com- with "a hand up, not a hand out. official in the race.

not using a \$32 million tax surplus create a plan.' to create a Rainy Day Fund in last year's budget.

tainment promotion fields, declared, I've worked with for 30 years. I've two unsuccessful attempts to insti-"The city has the money" to deal been in your community; I've been tute such a system, continued to to "pet projects and personal lega- my commitment. Being a person of fend the concept, but added, "I cies," such as the Oregon Health color means a lot to me." and Sciences University's \$57 milvocated for.

made similar charges.

Adams replied that he too be- prime time."

lieved in a rainy day fund, but that the city also had to "backfill" loss of funds due to cuts in fed-

eral appropriations. The newest African Americans feel threatstreetcar additions are being paid ened." ting control of unions." Refer- for by federal appropriations, ur-

One questioner asked what the rights and not expect government candidates would do to ensure with many rap artists from his For the most part, the candidates munity is included in the city's

points the other challengers di- responded, "I experience north he would emphasize personal remunity, but it's incredibly For instance Dozono, owner of stressed." He promised to sit youngest candidate, said, "In a Azumano Travel Agency and a down with "leaders of the Afri- short time I've done a lot. I will be prominent member of several civic can American community, the the most honest person you've organizations criticized Adams for north-northeast community, and ever elected. My door will be open

Dozono said, "I have so many friends in the audience," and men-Rich, a self-employed entrepretioned James Posey, Roy Jay and changing to a city manager form of neur in the advertising and enter- Lolenzo Poe. "These are people government Dozono, who backed with priorities if it wasn't diverted invited into your homes. You have back the idea. He continued to de-

Several times Dozono re- change." lion tram and new streetcar routes, peated, "I get it, and I'll get it which Adams has personally ad- done." In his final remark, in an fer "near-dictatorial powers" upon obvious reference to the fact that Gier, a panel chip engineer, he was running for office for the what Sho and Mayor Potter profirst time, he said, "I'm ready for

> McNair said, "I want to close the gap on this community. White person who's a dictator and a group folks don't understand us, and of people who act like a dictator?"

She said she would urge more ban renewal funds and local as- affluent neighborhoods to help "I'm not impressed with the City sessments that couldn't other- less well-off ones. "I want things Council at all." Repeating a recur- wise be used for police, fire or to be equal and fair," she said. "I want to shake up City Hall."

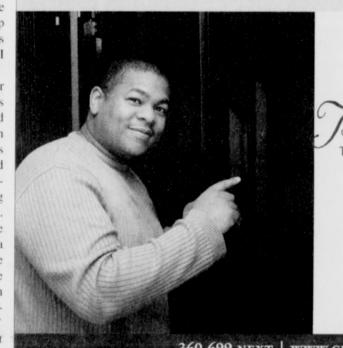
Rich said that he was familiar that the African American com- time in the music business, and would work to eradicate Oregon Liquor Control Commission laws Adams, who lives in Kenton, that restrict what they do. He said

> Gier, noting that he was the and my books will be open. Everyone will know what I'm thinking."

In answer to a question about won't run on a platform of charter

Adams said the idea would conone person and said, "I opposed posed." The other three candidates agreed, although Rich said, "What's the difference between one

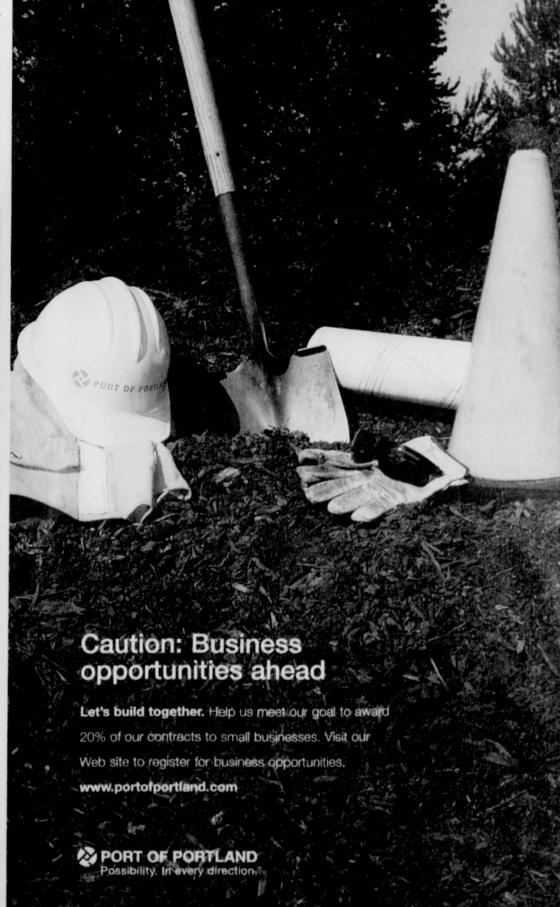
'My goal is to be an electronics technician."



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